




Improving America's High Schools

**U.S. Department of
Education Initiatives**




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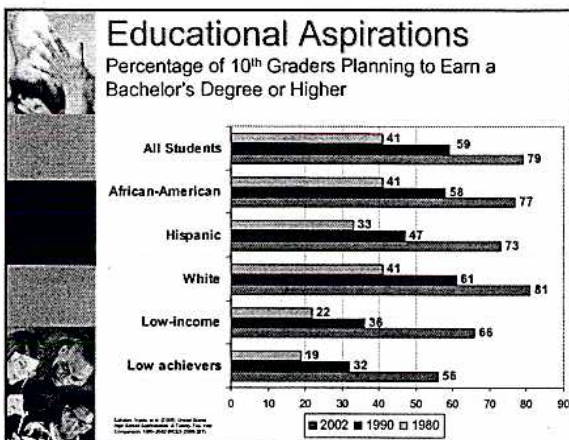
Topics for Discussion

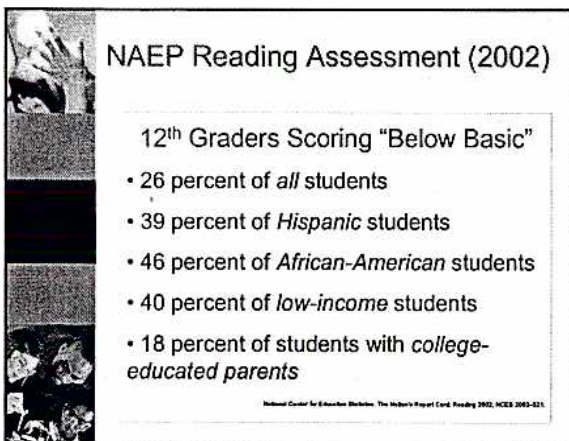
- Our Challenge
- Budget Priorities
- ED Programs of Interest
- High School Research
- Interagency Collaboration

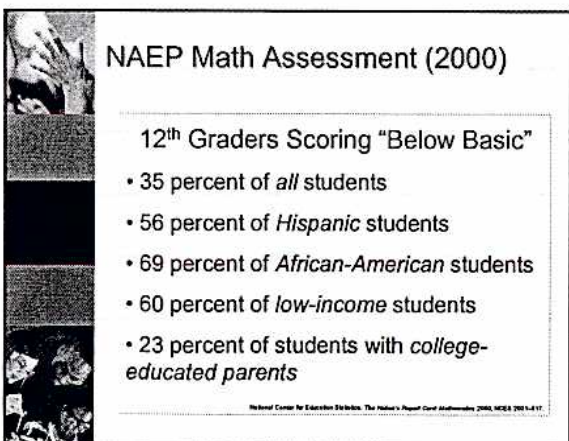



Our Challenge

- The aspirations of high school students are higher than ever...
- But they lack the academic preparation they need to pursue their dreams.










Questions Most "Below Basic" Students Answered Incorrectly

Ken bought a used car for \$5,375. He had to pay an additional 15 percent of the purchase price to cover both sales tax and extra fees. Of the following, which is closest to the total amount Ken paid?

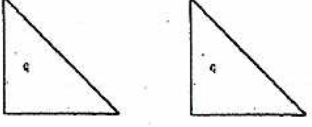
A) \$806
 B) \$5,510
 C) \$5,760
 D) \$5,940
 E) \$6,180


NAEP Question Test



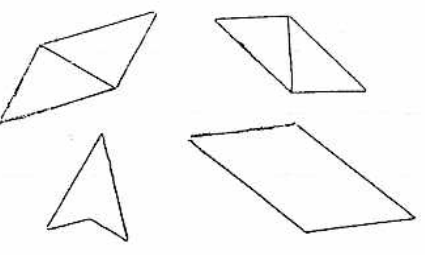
Questions Most "Below Basic" Students Answered Incorrectly


Use the 2 pieces labeled Q to make a 4-sided shape that is not a square. Trace the shape and draw the line to show where the 2 pieces meet.



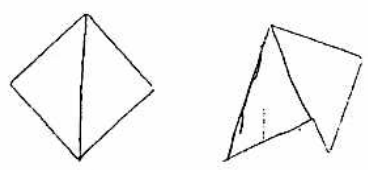


Correct Answers






Incorrect Answers



NAEP Question Tool



NAEP Math Achievement Trends Average Scale Scores, 1973 - 2004

Age 9

- Up 22 points since 1973; highest ever in 2004


Age 13

- Up 15 points since 1973; highest ever in 2004

Age 17

- No change

National Center for Education Statistics, Trends in Academic Progress, Third Decade of Student Performance in Reading and Mathematics (NCES 2005-166)




NAEP Math Achievement Trends Average Scale Scores, 1973 - 2004

Among minority students, there were important gains between 1973 and 1990...

- African-Americans: up 19 points
- Hispanics: Up 7 points

But achievement has been **flat** since 1990.

National Center for Education Statistics, Trends in Academic Progress, Third Decade of Student Performance in Reading and Mathematics (NCES 2005-166)



NAEP Reading Achievement Trends Average Scale Scores, 1971 - 2004

Age 9

- Up 11 points since 1971; highest ever in 2004


Age 13

- Rose between 1971 – 1980; flat since then

Age 17

- No change

National Center for Education Statistics, Trends in Academic Progress: Three Decades of Student Performance in Reading and Mathematics (NCES 2005-044)




NAEP Reading Achievement Trends Average Scale Scores, 1971 - 2004

Among minority students, there were important gains in the 1970's and 1980's...

- African-Americans: up 35 points, 1971-88
- Hispanics: Up 23 points, 1971-90.

But achievement has been **flat** since 1990.

National Center for Education Statistics, Trends in Academic Progress: Three Decades of Student Performance in Reading and Mathematics (NCES 2005-044)



College Remediation Rates

Recent High School Grads in Community College Remedial Courses: Western State

Class	Any	Reading	Writing	Math
2000	56%	10%	21%	48%
2001	56%	10%	21%	49%
2002	54%	10%	20%	47%



High Dropout Rates

- Dueling estimates
 - Data issues make reliable estimates difficult
 - Approximate range, 18 to 32 percent
 - Recent Philadelphia study: 40 percent
- Higher rates
 - Males
 - African-Americans
 - Hispanics
 - Low-income youth

Whatever the rate is, it is too high!



Budget Priorities High School Reform Initiative

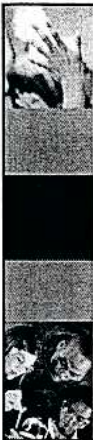
- \$1.5 billion formula grant to states
 - Competitively awarded to LEAs
- Improve outcomes for at-risk high school students
 - Use 8th-grade assessment data to develop individual performance plans for students entering high school
 - Academic support, enhanced instruction
 - Dropout prevention
 - College preparation and awareness
 - Career and technical education
- Reading and math assessments in 2 additional years of high school



Budget Priorities High School Reform Initiative

Striving Readers (\$70 million increase)

- Research-based literacy interventions for middle and high school students



Budget Priorities

State Capacity

- Title I School Improvement Grants (\$200 million)
 - State-level activities to provide support to LEAs and schools identified for improvement
- Statewide Data Systems (\$30 million increase)
 - Grants to SEAs to develop longitudinal student data systems



Budget Priorities

American Competitiveness Initiative

- Math Now for Middle School Students (\$125 million)
 - Research-based math interventions in middle schools
- Advanced Placement Incentive (+ \$90 million)
 - Train 70,000 teachers for math, science and foreign language AP-IB courses
- Adjunct Teacher Corps (\$25 million)
 - Encourage qualified professionals to teach high school courses, with an emphasis on math and science



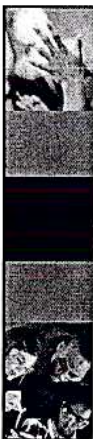
ED Programs of Interest

- Smaller Learning Communities
- School Dropout Prevention
- Advanced Placement Incentive
- Academic Competitiveness Grants
- Information Resources



Smaller Learning Communities

- LEAs, including educational service agencies
 - High school with 1,000 or more students in grades 9-12
- Improve student achievement and high school completion:
 - Freshmen academies, "houses," career academies, school-within-a-school, adult advocate or advisory systems
 - Interventions for freshmen with reading and math skills that are significantly below grade level
 - Other activities



Smaller Learning Communities

- 5-year grants
- \$650,000 to \$1.2 million per school
- \$85 million available in next cycle
- Notice inviting applications: first quarter 2007

www.ed.gov/programs/slcp



AP Incentive Program

- SEAs or LEAs (including educational service agencies), and national nonprofit educational entities with expertise in providing AP services
 - Middle and high schools in which at least 40 percent of students are low-income
- Expand access to AP or International Baccalaureate programs by low-income students
 - Professional development
 - Pre-AP courses and services
 - Tutoring and academic support
 - Aligning middle and high school curriculum
 - Online courses



AP Incentive Program

- 3-year grants, renewed annually
- Up to \$1 million annually
- Notice inviting applications: first quarter 2007

www.ed.gov/programs/apincent



School Dropout Prevention Program

- 3-year grants to SEAs to support statewide dropout prevention initiatives
 - Target middle and high schools with dropout rates that exceed the state average
- Four grants
 - Arizona
 - Minnesota
 - New Hampshire
 - Texas



School Dropout Prevention Program

- Minnesota
 - Collaboration between high schools and their feeder middle schools
 - TA on research-based dropout prevention strategies
- New Hampshire
 - State-level interagency council
 - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports model



School Dropout Prevention Program

- Arizona
 - White Mountain and San Carlos Apache Tribes
 - Community involvement, mentoring, behavioral health, substance abuse prevention, and other support services
- Texas
 - Communities in Schools
 - Personal graduation plans
 - Big Brothers and Big Sisters



Academic Competitiveness Grants

- Supplemental Pell Grants
 - Up to \$750 for first year of college
 - Up to \$1,300 for second year
- State-designated course of study OR
- Passed 2 AP or IB exams OR
- At least—
 - 4 years of English
 - 3 years of math, including Algebra I and 1 higher-level course
 - 3 years of science, including 2 years of biology, chemistry or physics
 - 3 years of social studies
 - 1 year of foreign language



Academic Competitiveness Grants

- State-designated courses of study

<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/>



Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act

- \$1.3 billion (FY 06) in formula grants
- States decide secondary/postsecondary "split"
- State leadership activities - 10% of allocation
- Improve vocational and technical education programs and serve "special populations"
 - Low-income students, English language learners, students with disabilities, pregnant and parenting teens
- States agree on performance levels
 - Indicators include high school completion



Adult Education and Family Literacy Act

- \$564 million (FY 06) in formula grants to states
 - Competitive grants to local providers
- State leadership activities – 12.5% of allocation
- 2.7 million participants.
 - English Literacy (44%)
 - Adult Basic Education (40%)
 - Adult Secondary Education (16%)



Adult Education and Family Literacy Act

- 15% of participants are out-of-school youth ages 16-18
 - 371,673 in FY 2004
- Largest enrollment of federal programs for out-of-school youth
- 35 to 40 percent of the GED credentials that have been awarded in last 3 years



Information Resources

National High School Center

www.betterhighschools.org

Center for School Reform and Improvement

www.centerforcsri.org



High School Research What Works Clearinghouse


- Systematic review of research evidence on dropout prevention strategies: *what works?*
- Summer 2007
 - Intervention reports
 - Topic report

www.whatworks.ed.gov



Adolescent Literacy Research What We Need to Know

- The extent to which evidence on early reading instruction holds true for older struggling readers
- How to identify, prevent, and remediate reading and writing difficulties
- The role of motivation in reading & how to increase it
- How age and experience affect learning to read
- How best to conduct comprehension strategy instruction
- How best to provide instruction in writing




Adolescent Literacy Research Link to Dropout Prevention

Philadelphia, Classes of 2000 - 2005

Reading Level	% 9 th Grade Dropouts
5 th grade or below	58%
6 th to 7 th grade	20%
8 th grade +	22%

Hiebel and Seligson (2006), Unfulfilled Promises: The Dimensions and Characteristics of Philadelphia's Dropout Crisis, 2000-2005, Project U-Turn.




High School Research Adolescent Literacy

Adult Literacy Research Network

- \$18.5 million over 5 years
 - 80 research sites in 16 states
- Results in 2008

Adolescent Literacy Research Network

- \$18 million over 5 years
 - 12,700 preadolescent and adolescent students
- Results in 2010



High School Research Adolescent Literacy

SLC Enhanced Reading Opportunities

- Supplemental reading instruction in freshman academies
 - Strategic Instruction Model
 - Reading Apprenticeship
- 10 districts, 34 high schools
- Results in 2009

Striving Readers

- 2 components
 - Literacy instruction across the curriculum
 - Targeted interventions for struggling readers
- Title I-eligible middle and high schools



High School Research Other Projects

- Re-engaging Out-of-School Youth
 - Dropout recovery programs that include strong college preparation
- Bridging the Divide
 - How do varying state and local policies affect dual enrollment programs?




Interagency Collaboration "Shared Vision for Youth"

- Focus on "neediest youth"
 - Youth in foster care
 - Children of incarcerated parents
 - Court involved youth
 - Migrant youth
 - Youth with disabilities
 - Native American youth
 - Homeless and runaway youth
 - Out of school youth
- Promote federal and state collaboration across agencies and funding streams



Interagency Collaboration "Shared Vision for Youth"

- Original Partners
 - U.S. Department of Labor
 - U.S. Department of Education
 - U.S. Department of Justice (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention)
 - U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
- State agency forums (Fall 2004)
 - Strategic planning by state teams
 - Federal TA




Interagency Collaboration


"Shared Vision for Youth"

- Additional Partners (2006)
 - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - Social Security Administration
 - Corporation for National and Community Service
- Follow-up state agency forums (Fall 2006)
 - 16 states
 - Strategic planning by state teams
 - Enhanced federal TA

www.doleta.gov/rvf/



Questions?



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